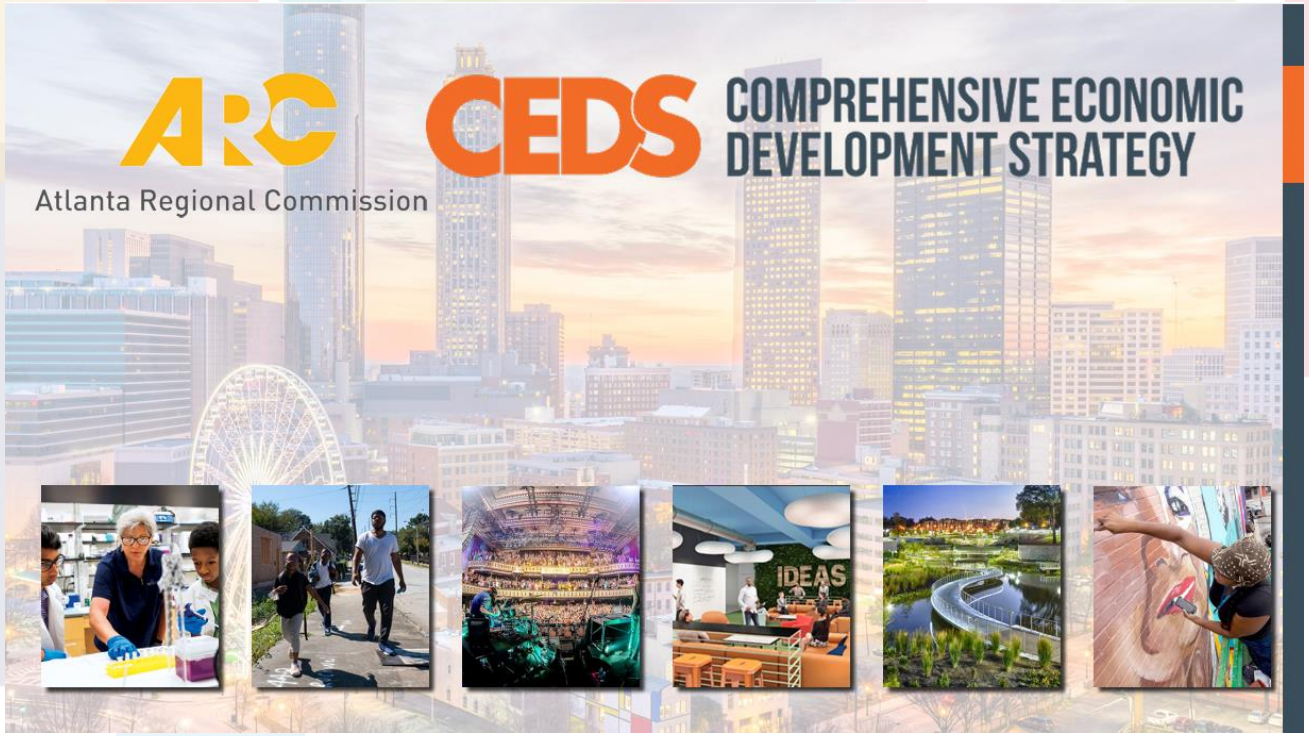
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Five-Year Update

(5 mins)



The CEDS is our region's five-year economic plan

It sets shared goals for jobs, growth, and quality of life, and keeps the 11 counties eligible for federal EDA dollars.

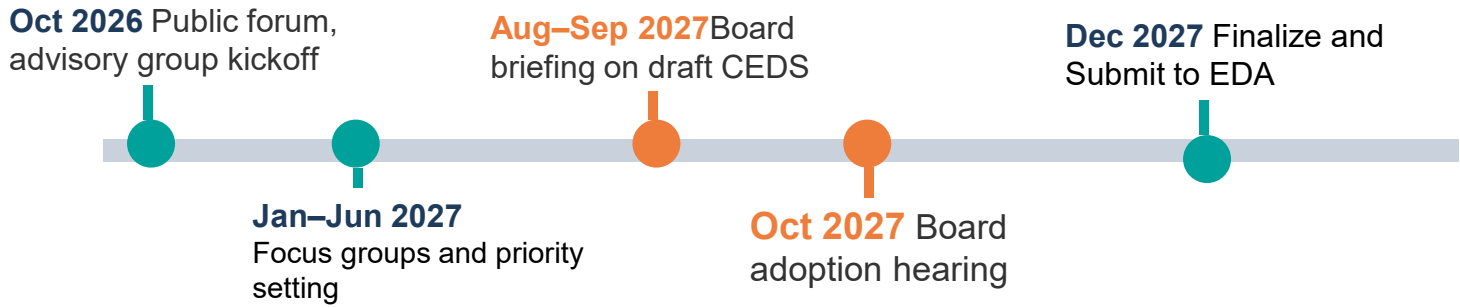
Why it matters

- **Federal requirement.** An adopted CEDS keeps the region eligible for EDA funding.
- **Current plan expires 2027.** The update must reach EDA by December 2027.
- **Built from local plans.** Priorities come from local governments, employers, and partners.

How You Can Help

- **Tell us what you're doing.** Your local priorities and projects are the raw material for this plan. We can't build it without them.
- **Carry it home.** Talk about this work with your councils, your businesses, and your constituents. Your voice gets people to the table.

Key dates
Orange marks where the Board comes in



ONE great REGION

ARC

Our Board Champions for this Update



Chairwoman,
Dr. Alieka Anderson-
Henry Clayton County



Chairman, Alfred John,
Forsyth County

Vision

ONE great REGION

Mission

Foster thriving communities for all within the Atlanta region through collaborative, data-informed planning and investments.

Values

Excellence | **Integrity** | **Equity**

Goals

Healthy, safe, livable communities in the Atlanta Metro area.

Strategic investments in people, infrastructure, mobility, and preserving natural resources.

Regional services delivered with **operational excellence** and **efficiency**.

Diverse stakeholders engage and take a regional approach to solve local issues.

A competitive economy that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient.

Appendices

Additional Economic Development Information Table of Contents

Our Approach: Local Priorities, Tested Against Regional Trends

Focused Implementation: Four Strategic Pillars

Stakeholder Engagement

Our Approach: Local Priorities, Tested Against Regional Trends

Bottom line: The next CEDS will be a short, implementable plan built from local priorities, tested against six regional trends, and owned by ARC departments that can deliver it.

1 What we're seeing
Six regional trends

- **Slower growth,** older workforce.
- **AI reshapes jobs** unevenly.
- **Housing near jobs** drives site decisions.
- **Energy cost and capacity** decide projects.
- **Data centers:** tax base, few jobs, heavy power and water use.
- **Infrastructure limits** what communities can land.

2 What local plans tell us
Five shared needs

- **Workforce:** jobs, skills, training don't line up.
- **Development:** site readiness is a barrier everywhere.
- **Housing:** quality of life is an economic issue.
- **Transportation:** most residents commute out of county.
- **Business:** small firms and entrepreneurs need support.

3 How we build the plan
ARC's approach

- **Start local.** Built from municipal priorities.
- **Economic mobility** as the foundation.
- **Board engaged** from the outset.
- **Actions owned by ARC departments** with program authority.
- **Few metrics,** one public dashboard.

Focused Implementation: Four Strategic Pillars

What local plans told us: workforce gaps, site readiness, housing, commuting, and small business. Each pillar is owned by an ARC department with programs to deliver it.



Connected Talent

WDD+CDD

Skills pipelines, youth pathways, upskilling, employer-driven training, AI disruptions



Places That Work

CDD

Housing, OZs, small business, corridor and downtown revitalization, anti-displacement



Moving to Opportunity

TPD+TDM+CDD

Jobs close to housing, TOD, last mile connectivity, game changing technology,



Resilient Prosperity

NRD+CDD

Infrastructure planning, climate resilience, clean energy

Stakeholder Engagement

Committees

Internal: 8 people across

External: Steering: 15 strategic members modeled on the Regional Housing Strategy advisory approach

Focus Groups (6-8) /Interviews

4 pillar-aligned:
Connected Talent Places That Work
Moving to Opportunity
Resilient Prosperity

Cross-cutting:
Community Voices Local Government

Individual Interviews:
TBD

